

EPA-3321

Phil North/R10/USEPA/US

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To king2rick

cc gparker

bcc

Subject Visit by Dennis McLerran

Hi Rick,

Sorry for the delay in getting you this number. I have been on the phone on this same topic since we talked.

Kendra Tyler is the Regional Administrator's (Dennis McLerran) secretary her phone number is 206-553-0041.

As an introduction: I am an ecologist in the Aquatic Resources Unit (ARU) in the Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs. I was assigned to work on the Pebble mine about five years ago. I have been spending a lot of my time on it. It is my group ARU that has the authority under Clean Water Act 404(c). It is my group that is doing the technical evaluation. If Mr. McLerran visits Bristol Bay this summer, I hope to go along.

I have a fairly long personal history in Alaska including some time in Bristol Bay. Starting in 1975, before college, I worked for my uncle on salmon tenders around Alaska. He had a fish buying station in South Naknek so that is where I spent the early part of every summer. Then we went on to Kodiak, Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet. I fished crab in the Bering Sea one year, but that was the year of the crash. It was on to college for me after that.

I am now a fish biologist by training and, having attended college on the west coast, salmon has always been the focus. I have worked for EPA in Alaska since 1989, with a few years at the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in California before that. While at FWS my job was to figure out how much water to release from dams to maintain the remnant salmon in California streams. It is much more satisfying to work to maintain healthy salmon runs.

Tribes have a special role in Pebble issues because of government-to-government relations. EPA takes that very seriously. I encourage you to develop that relationship as much as you can. I look forward to talking with you more in the future.

Phil

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